

Dear Parishioners, Alumni and Friends of St. Patrick's Church,

Greetings in this first week of July in Rome. Welcome to Father Tommaso Kane who will be with us again for the month of July and a special Thank You to Father Tom Holahan who has been our interim Vice Rector for the month of June and who leaves us later on this week. It was great to have the two Father Tom's together again in the Paulist rectory this week!

Our American Independence Day Mass will be on Wednesday, the Fourth of July, at 6 PM, with special music and singing. The celebrant is Father Tommaso. All are welcome.

This coming Sunday, July 8, the readings focus on what it means to be a prophet who risks everything to speak the truth. Prophets can face rejection, reputation, the loss of their jobs and possibly their lives by not only standing up for what they believe, but by doing something about it. We have many prophets in our midst today who speak out against oppression and injustice. Sometimes we reject what they have to say and occasionally we reject the prophet within our hearts, challenging us to do the right thing. We often know the right thing to say or do, but we are afraid we will be laughed at or rejected outright. With our God-given gifts and talents, we have the potential to create change in our families, in our workplaces, in our society, in our Church and in our world. We reject our own prophetic possibilities because we think a prophet cannot possibly be lurking behind such common talent or such an ordinary appearance. Yet all we have to do is read about the prophets in the Bible or look at the lives of the saints to know that they were no different than us. For at our Baptism, each one of us was anointed a prophet and given the grace of God. May we go forth today and be the prophets God created.

Fr. Ed Dougherty will be the celebrant of the Saturday 6 PM and Fr. Bill Nordenbrock will preside and preach at the Sunday 9 AM Mass. Fr. Tom Kane is the celebrant for the 10.30 AM Mass. Hopefully, I will be in California for the weekend.

We are thoroughly redesigning our process for next year's Family Based Religious Education Program. Information and registration forms will not be available until after July 15, so please do not inquire before then, or send emails to me at this time. Fluent knowledge of English for both parents and children is required. The minimum age for First Communion is now 8 years old and the Third Grade (by the first day of class) and for Confirmation it is 14 years old and the Ninth Grade. For the First Communion and Confirmation classes, all families must set up an interview with me after submitting the application.

If you are in Rome, I encourage you to come to Mass at St. Patrick's at least three times this summer (once a month). Sunday, July 8, would be a great time to do so. In the meantime, intensive preparations are already underway for the St. Nicholas Serata for Charity, which is set for December 1, 2018, so mark your calendars and Save the Date! Continue to have a good summer and I look forward to seeing you again when I return from my trip to Los Angeles and Fresno. Ciao for now, Father Greg